

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**APPROVAL FOR HIRING AND SPENDING AUTHORITY TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT
THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT –COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
SUPPORTS PLAN FOR CRISIS RESOLUTION SERVICES
AT DOWNTOWN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
AND
APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(4 VOTES)**

REQUEST

1. Authorize Department of Mental Health (DMH) to implement a Crisis Resolution Services (CRS) Program at the Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) in keeping with DMH's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan, effective upon Board approval. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 three (3) month pro-rated cost of the DMHC CRS is \$932,000, consisting of \$686,000 in FY 2005-06 unexpended MHSA funding and \$234,000 in anticipated Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Medi-Cal revenue and \$12,000 in Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment – State General Funds (EPSDT-SGF). The FY 2007-08 estimated cost of the DMHC CRS is \$4,148,000, consisting of \$3,060,000 in MHSA funding and \$1,036,000 in anticipated FFP Medi-Cal revenue and \$52,000 in EPSDT-SGF as detailed in Attachment I.
2. Authorize DMH to fill 37 ordinance/37 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions for the CRS, detailed on Attachment II, in excess of what is provided for in DMH's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code and subject to allocation by the Chief Administrative Office (CAO).
3. Approve the Request for Appropriation Adjustment (Attachment III) for FY 2006-07 in the amount of \$932,000 to increase Services and Supplies (S&S) in the amount of \$131,000, and Salaries and Employee Benefits (S&EB) in the amount of \$801,000 to provide spending authority for the implementation of the CRS Program. The Appropriation Adjustment is fully funded with FY 2005-06 unexpended MHSA funding in the amount of \$686,000 and additional FFP Medi-Cal revenue in the amount of \$234,000 and EPSDT-SGF in the amount of \$12,000.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to implement a directly operated CRS in Service Area (SA) 4, as well as a Skid Row Management Team (SRMT) to be located at DMHC, 529 South Maple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (SA 4). The programs will promote DMH's overall transformation of service delivery from traditional individual-oriented clinical services to a Recovery Model of client and family driven, recovery-oriented services and supports, in accordance with the Department's MHSA CSS Plan. The programs are consistent with DMH's commitment to facilitate a comprehensive, coordinated network of community-based services in Skid Row resulting from recommendations made by the CAO Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) approved by your Board on April 7, 2006, the Skid Row Homeless Healthcare Initiative (SRHHI) Mental Health Workgroup, and the DMHC Community Advisory Board (CAB) that includes City, County, and Skid Row social service agencies.

The CRS Program will provide additional mental health resources for families, Transitional Age Youth (TAY) who are 18–24 years of age, and adults/older adults with mental illness who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, incarceration, or involuntary psychiatric hospitalization, with the goal to provide short-term stabilization and linkage to service providers, and to ensure community re-integration and recovery in individuals' communities of choice. The SRMT is being established in accordance with a recommendation from DMHC CAB that DMH take the lead in service coordination and integration of existing services, and collaboration with other public and private partners to develop resources in Skid Row for homeless mentally ill individuals.

In accordance with the CSS Plan, these services will promote recovery and wellness for families, TAY, adults, and older adults with severe mental illness. Implementation of these programs will enhance the Department's ability to meet the needs of these unserved/underserved populations in Skid Row and ensure that individuals have access to appropriate resources in the network of care.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no increase in net County cost.

The FY 2006-07 three (3) month pro-rated cost of the requested actions is \$932,000, fully funded with FY 2005-06 unexpended MHSA funding in the amount of \$686,000, additional FFP Medi-Cal revenue in the amount of \$234,000, and EPSDT-SGF in the amount of \$12,000. The State Department of Mental Health has approved counties to carry forward the unexpended MHSA funding for FY 2006-07.

The Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of \$932,000 will increase S&S in the amount of \$131,000 for operating costs, lease space, and client supportive services funds; and S&EB in the amount of \$801,000 for 37 FTE positions for the directly operated CRS.

The FY 2007-08 estimated cost for the CRS is \$4,148,000, consisting of \$3,060,000 in MHSA funding, \$1,036,000 in anticipated FFP Medi-Cal revenue, and \$52,000 in EPSDT-SGF. Included in the FY 2007-08 funding for the Program is \$400,000 set aside for a contracted Wellness Center (WC). Funding for FY 2007-08 has been included in the Department's FY 2007-08 Budget Request.

Funding beyond FY 2007-08 for the Program will be included in the Department's next three-year MHSA plan.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed program is consistent with the recommendations of the CAO HPI, the SRHHI Mental Health Workgroup, and DMHC CAB to develop and implement programs to prevent and reduce homelessness in Skid Row. The CRS is a critical component of the network of community-based services planned for Skid Row that will reduce homelessness, unnecessary hospitalization, and incarceration while promoting recovery and successful community reintegration. The SRMT, included in the CRS, will provide overall administrative management and coordination of existing mental health resources in Skid Row. In addition, the team will collaborate with local planning and service groups to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated network of community-based services.

The CRS Program will provide short-term, intensive, mental health and supportive services for mentally ill individuals and families, including comprehensive assessment, crisis intervention, medication stabilization, integrated approaches for co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, short-term case management and linkage to community-based services. Linkage to community-based services will include Full Service Partnerships (FSP), substance abuse treatment, access to physical healthcare, peer support/advocacy programs, benefits establishment, employment, educational and vocational opportunities, and emergency, transitional, supportive or independent housing.

The Department is currently working with CAO to attain permanent space for the CRS in the Downtown/Skid Row area. In the interim, the Program, as well as SRMT, will be located at DMHC, 529 South Maple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (SA 4).

The CRS Program also includes funding for a smaller contracted WC located off-site in Skid Row for individuals who no longer need intensive mental health services. DMH will issue a Request for Services for FY 2007-08 to community-based agencies who qualify on the Department's MHSA Master Agreement List. DMH will return to the Board for approval when a contractor has been determined.

The Department will work with CAO Classification Compensation to finalize allocation levels for the requested positions. These positions will ensure that clients in Skid Row receive the full array of services specified in the MHSA, including mental health services; medication support; peer support and mentoring assistance with achieving educational, employment, housing, and social/recreational goals; and assistance with accessing preventative and remedial physical health care seven (7) days a week.

The proposed actions have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel and the CAO. The Auditor-Controller has reviewed and approved Recommendation No. 3

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Implementation of the DMHC CRS Program is anticipated to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mental health operations in Skid Row and SA 4. The Program will support the Department's transformation to the Recovery Model and will promote development of recovery-oriented services that are based on client's strengths and competencies. In addition, these programs will enhance clients' ability to achieve improved quality of life outcomes while reducing homelessness, incarceration, and costly and restrictive institutionalization

CONTACT INFORMATION

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